

GUIDELINES TO THE MATERIALS AND METHODS

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This section is written in passive voice and in past tense.

Once again, you should *never* state any personal pronouns, and *never* state “Then the instructor.... (or Dr. Egan then...)” This should almost read like a cookbook, however you are telling the reader how you performed each experiment. The function of this section is to have it written so concise and clear that any scientist can follow your writing and reproduce your results.

For each experiment you have a paragraph. The paragraph starts with a bolded phrase then move directly in the experimental procedure. If calculations are involved they are included in the section, unless otherwise noted by me.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Isolation of plasmid DNA. Cell cultures were grown overnight to 600 O.D. and harvested by centrifugation. One ml of the cell culture was placed in a 1.5ml microcentrifuge tube and spun down for 15s at 14krpm. After 15s, the supernatant was dumped out of the tube and 1ml of cell culture was added again to the tube and centrifuged as previously stated. The cells were resuspended by micropipette in 100ul of DH₂O. 300ul of TENS (Tris EDTA, 0.1N NaOH, 0.5% SDS) was added to the resuspended supernatant and inverted six times turning the supernatant clear. 150ul of 3M NaOAc (sodium acetate) pH 5.2 was then added to the supernatant, and inverted six times. The supernatant was centrifuged for 5 minutes at 14krpm. The supernatant was transferred to a new microcentrifuge tube and 1ml of 95% ETOH (ethanol) was added. The sample was inverted 10 times, and stored at -20°C for 2hrs. After incubation, the sample was centrifuged for 10 minutes at 14krpm. The supernatant was decanted and the pellet was washed with 70% ETOH then left to dry inverted overnight on the bench top. The next day, the DNA was resuspended in 50ul of DH₂O and stored at -20°C until further use.